A Church Burned

Opposing "Mormonism" with Arson
-Two Elders arrested

Du Quoin, Perry Co., Ill.,
Dec. 29, 1887

Editor Desert News:

I left my home in Glenwood, Sevier County, Utah April 9 1886 to take a mission to the northwestern states. I labored in the Minnesota Conference the first six months. From thence I was appointed to labor in the southern part of Illinois, where I have been ever since. My field has principally been in Williamson, Union, and Jackson counties. The latter is my field at present.

On Dec. 6, we were holding a meeting in the ??? Church in Pleasent Valley, Union Co., when we were disturbed by a mob. They threw stones and bricks against the house and through the windows. The people became very much excited and rushed out, but returned again. I continued my discourse, when ???-??? we were again visited with another shower of stones. This caused the breaking of our meeting. After we left the house it was set on fire and burned to the ground.
The burning of the house was done by the mob and it was supposed that they were headed by a minister of the same church who had so bitterly opposed us the night before. Efforts are being made to identify the party who were engaged in the crime.

On December 24th, Elder James S. Smith and myself were arrested by Hugh Appleton, a detective, on a complaint made by Mr. Peter Brimmer, whose wife we had baptized a few days previous. At the time the baptizing took place Mr. Brimmer was very favorable, and went with us to the water where the baptizing was performed. But he afterwards entered a complaint for our arrest.
We were kept in custody by the detective for twenty-four hours, when

we were discharged, as Mr. Brimmer withdrew his charge against us. The officer demanded $.25 as fees, and made us pay it before he would let us go. They also demanded that we leave the county, but this we would not agree to do.

Threats were made against us, stating that if we were caught in the neighborhood again we would be mobbed out.

We are at present time in Du Quoin, visiting some of the Elders who have met to spend the holidays. There is a small branch of the Church located here. The Saints are feeling well in the Gospel.

Your co-laborer in the Gospel of peace,

Erastus W. Peterson